

# Border Eagle

Vol. 53, No. 5

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas

Feb. 4, 2005

## Laughlin team breathes easy after ORI brief

By 2nd Lt. Sheila Johnston  
Public Affairs

Tuesday marked the end of Laughlin's Operational Readiness Inspection with the final out-brief and results given by the AETC Inspector General team to more than 500 Team XL members in the Anderson Hall auditorium.

While the wing received an overall satisfactory rating, many individuals, programs and units were recognized for superior performance that exceeded the "satisfactory" standard.

Five Laughlin members were awarded the Inspector General coin for their distinctive achievements. Some developed innovative programs to overcome manning shortages while others provided top-notch customer service.

The individuals recognized by the inspection team were: Senior Airman Valeria Perchina, 47th Comptroller Squadron; Tech. Sgt. Hector Rodriguez, 47th Medical Group; Master Sgt. Thomas Mayo, 47th Mission Support Squadron; Capt. Rudy Chavez, 84th Flying Training Squadron; and Mr. Dennis Carroll, 47th Services Division.

In addition, four Laughlin units impressed the inspectors with innovative programs that were deemed "best practices."

The units reaching this lauded achievement were the 47th Operations Group Standardization and Evaluations unit, the 47th Mission Support Squad-



Photo by Capt. Paula Kurtz

**Laughlin deploys more than 90 Airmen during an exercise to complete the Operational Readiness Inspection here Jan. 27. The results of the overall wing performance were announced during the ORI out-brief Tuesday at Anderson Hall.**

ron with two, and the 47th Contracting Squadron.

Following the out brief presentation, Col. Tod D. Wolters, 47th Flying Training Wing commander, released the IG team before addressing the Team XL audience.

"You are a world-class organization," Colonel Wolters said, "You are nothing shy of outstanding. You do what I ask of you, which is 'train expeditionary airpower experts!'"

Colonel Wolters encouraged Laughlin members to look at the informa-

tion provided by the IG, identify challenges and work to improve those areas.

"This inspection is essentially a snapshot of a week in the life of Laughlin," Colonel Wolters said. "You have accomplished so much more than can be seen in just a week. From the T-6 conversion, T-38 upgrades and runway renovations, to conquering weather challenges and deploying more than 100 warriors around the world, you prove every single day that you're the best on the planet at what you do."

## DOD sets Combined Federal Campaign pledge record

By Army Sgt. 1st Class  
Doug Sample

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Cigars and roses were just part of the thanks handed out here Tuesday by Combined Federal Campaign National Capital Area officials after Defense Department employees raised a

record-setting \$14.9 million in pledges in the 2004 campaign.

The \$14.9 million figure far surpassed the campaign's goal of \$12.1 million, and is \$1.8 million over the \$13.1 million collected a year ago, DOD campaign officials said.

Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, who serves as CFC vice chairman, called DOD's participation

"pretty impressive."

"I am immensely proud of what this department has accomplished," he said.

"Over and over again we keep coming back; over and over again we keep breaking records," he said. "At some point, it's going to become impossible. But it's not impossible yet,

See 'CFC,' page 4

### Newslines

#### Public affairs office closure

The public affairs office will close at noon today for training. For urgent matters, call the command post at 298-5167.

The office will re-open at 7:30 a.m. Monday.

#### Annual awards banquet

The Wing Annual Awards Banquet is scheduled for 7 p.m. Feb. 11 at the Fiesta Center.

Social hour begins at 6 p.m. The dress for this event is Mess Dress or semi-formal for military members and semi-formal or "after-6" dinner attire for civilians.

Menu choices are: London Broil, Stuffed Pork Tenderloin, and Baked Cod Filet.

All attendees will receive a memento of the event.

Contact your unit point of contact to sign up for the event or for additional questions call Senior Master Sgt. Elijah Hussey at 298-5703 or Master Sgt. Rufino Gonzales at 298-5448.

#### Scholarship, grant available

The 2005/2006 Federal Employee Education and Assistance scholarship is now available for civilian federal employees and family members. Visit <http://www.feea.org> for an application.

The Gen. Henry H. Arnold Education grant for active-duty, Guard, Reserve and family members is available at <http://www.afas.org>.

### Deployment stats

Deployed:	24
Returning in 30 days:	22
Deploying in 30 days:	15

### Mission status

Mission capable rate  
(As of Tuesday)

T-38C, 86.0%	T-1, 86.0%
T-38A, 73.4%	T-6, 94.5%

## Sharing talents impacts community, nation



### Commander's Corner

**By Lt. Col. Kelly Flectcher**  
84th Flying Training Squadron  
commander

Have you ever stepped back and taken a look at how you spend your time, and realized you're in a rut? Same time, same channel every weekend?

Could you see yourself still doing the same thing 10 or 20 years from now? How many people do you know whose definition of a great weekend or time off is spent drinking and eating parked in front of the TV or Playstation?

Opportunities are available that enable us to change our routine, get out of our rut.

Sometimes it takes another individual, a role model, or just to know that someone is in need, to take that step to be involved.

At the recent Martin Luther King Jr. luncheon I read a quote from the program that said it all. Stated with such impact, everything I planned on writing about in one simple statement.

It was contained in the bio of Mr. Anthony McKinney, the guest speaker that day... his personal philosophy.

His quote stated, "Dr. King was obviously an advocate of social equality and was always willing to serve.

So, why shouldn't I take the gifts, talents, experience and education that I have and serve my community where I can make a difference wherever I am located?"

That is so true! And how does that relate to my earlier questions? You have the ability

to share, change lives and impact someone else. Whatever your talents or interests, we all have the ability to serve our community in some capacity.

Laughlin and the surrounding Del Rio communities are in need of people willing to serve. I'm not talking about multiple hours or days; a simple sharing of just a couple hours per month provides great impact to those in need. Simply by sharing your love of sports, interest in movies, or your extensive Playstation skills, these are experiences that someone will greatly appreciate.

The Family Support Center is a great place to start in the search for a place to share your talents.

Take the philosophy to serve wherever you are located and see how much it impacts your life. And once you have; then answer the question," how did you spend your weekend?"

## Combat lessons Airmen should know before deploying

**By Staff Sgt. Lee Watts**  
20th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

SHAW AIR FORCE BASE, S.C. — There I was, deployed in the war on terrorism, when I found myself under attack, again! I am not a pilot or a security forces troop; I do most of my work in an office; but while in Iraq, I had to repeatedly face enemy fire nonetheless.

If you are in the military, you can expect to deploy. It is what we train for. Whether you work in an office, on the flightline or have some other job, training with a warrior's mindset here at home can keep you alive when you are under attack.

When you literally see the rockets' red glare and bombs bursting in air, there is no time to think. Your training, or lack thereof, will take over.

During exercises, do you ever grumble about having to wear the helmet or flak vest for hours? Are

you one of those Airmen who takes it off when no one's looking? Yes, it is uncomfortable; but let me stress why we all need to train the way we fight.

A few weeks ago I was in Baghdad and was headed to the gym, which was a short walk from the trailers where we slept. I will admit, it looks ridiculous wearing a t-shirt, running shorts and sneakers with body armor and a helmet. But while outdoors, orders were to always wear your protective gear.

It was a quiet night, but halfway there, four rockets broke the silence. They came without warning; no alarms sounded until after the explosions began. That night, I chose to put on the uncomfortable armor. A guy 50 yards to my right did not. Today, I am safely home with my family; he is not. His family must now go on without him.

Orders are for a reason. Following them saved my life,

and not following them cost another man his.

Train the way you fight! We are all given orders to go to training. The military provides the training, but your mindset determines its effectiveness. Have you trained for war or just checked a box? Whether it be self-aid and buddy care, chemical warfare or small arms, treat your training as if your life depends on it. It may.

Right now, if the bullets started flying, could you quickly clear a jam in your weapon and get it operational again? This "office" Airman had to do that. Could you treat someone going into shock? When car-bomb shock waves hit my building, that scenario became real.

During a Phase II exercise, when you're showing new Airmen how to do unexploded-ordnance sweeps, are you showing them exactly the way you want them to

See 'Lessons,' page 3

## Border Eagle

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### Deadlines

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

Submissions can be e-mailed to: [olufemi.owolabi@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:olufemi.owolabi@laughlin.af.mil) or [sheila.johnston@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:sheila.johnston@laughlin.af.mil).

### Advertising

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Actionline

Col. Tod Wolters  
47th Flying Training  
Wing commander



Call 298-5351 or email  
actionline@laughlin.af.mil

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By including your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also useful if more information is needed to pursue your inquiry. We will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

Before you call in or e-mail an Actionline, please try to work out the problem through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved. Please keep e-mails brief.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions. Below are telephone numbers that may be helpful when working your issue with a base agency.

AAFES	298-3176
Chapel	298-5111
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Clinic	298-6311
Commissary	298-5815
Contracting	298-5439
Dormitory manager	298-5213
EEO	298-5879
Finance	298-5204
FWA hotline	298-4170
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
Inspector General	298-5638
Legal	298-5172
MEO	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810

*“Through trust and teamwork, train expeditionary airpower experts to fight and win America’s wars.”*

– 47th Flying  
Training Wing  
mission statement

Leadership: make it happen, don’t wait for it

By Chief Master Sgt.  
Benjamin Harper Jr.  
379 Air Expeditionary Wing  
command chief

SOUTHWEST ASIA — I was out one day with some of the fine Airmen we have here and one of them made the comment, “I can’t wait until I get the opportunity to lead.”

There are many things about leadership that I don’t understand, but I do know you don’t wait on it to come, you make it happen. In every forum in the last 10 years, I have heard the statement made that we have a shortage of good leadership at all levels. What makes a good leader and why is there a shortage?

Leadership involves constant preparation. Vince Lombardi, one of the greatest football coaches of all time, once said, “It is not the desire to win that is so important but rather the willingness to prepare.”

So how do we prepare then, since we are all expected to lead in this deployed combat environment? Retired Army Gen. Montgomery Meigs identified four characteristics that we might recognize as common in what we view as good leaders.

The first characteristic is intellect, from which we derive the elements of decision and execution — competence, intuition, and will. Good leaders read about good leaders. They are constantly searching and studying leaders and leadership styles from all walks of life. First they

make sure they understand the goals of the mission. Then they search out proven and often innovative ways to get the job done. Here, we say “mission first,” but it is understood it is people always. We make sure we and our people receive the best education and follow on training available, even in the deployed environment.

Take the maintenance group, for example.

Do you think they can provide 40 percent of the airpower for this AOR with the oldest fleet ever in the history of the Air Force by luck or chance? No way, it takes dedicated leaders who ensure the combat maintainers have the best tools and training available. They ensure the troops are intellectually prepared to face the challenges of the daily maintenance mission.

The next characteristic is energy. Good leaders get around; they influence the daily “battles” with presence. They follow their e-mail with their feet! The very best of them have the uncanny ability to be at critical places at critical times. They get out from under the pressure of the calendar and focus on the human element of the organization.

I think the greatest similarity between motivational energy and depression is that they are both contagious. Good leaders get up and get ready. When they are with the troops they are motivated. As a leader, the organization feeds off you. It takes a lot of energy to keep this up which is why the Air Force places so much

value on the new physical fitness program.

Let’s look at the troops in the operations group for a minute. This dedicated group of men and women are constantly flying. It may be a combat, refueling or humanitarian mission, or it may be carrying troops, but the mission is constant.

The Airmen in the operations group give us a tangible demonstration of the kind of energy it takes to be a good leader. It is constant, focused and always available.

The third characteristic is selflessness. It is truly motivating to know that your leader is thinking about you first, isn’t it? We have all seen this characteristic demonstrated time and time again. This allows good leaders to accept the best decision and not just their decision. This characteristic causes us to look “out” and not “in” to our own benefits.

The final characteristic is humanity.

While humanity is essential to success for all of us, we most often think of the medical folks when speaking of humanity.

Every customer they get never stops by unless he or she is not feeling well; yet, they always take care of us.

Understanding the mission, maintaining the energy to see it through and caring about your troops are leadership qualities that each of us, regardless of our jobs, can do every day.

So, don’t wait for the opportunity to lead, take it!

Lessons, from page 2

check around your tent when it really counts? There were more than 100 sweeps in the short time I was there.

During attacks, your training will take over, and so will the training you have provided to others. When mortars begin to

fall, it is too late to prepare. Whatever preparations you make now will be all you have then.

In Baghdad, it was obvious who was fit to fight both physically and mentally. They had trained with a warrior mindset and came to the fight combat-ready.

In this war, fear is the enemy’s greatest weapon. The terrorists want us to be afraid:

afraid to fly, afraid to visit our own monuments, afraid the costs will be too high to see this fight through to the end.

The way to defeat our enemy is clear. In the fight against terrorism, Thomas Paine once said, “Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom, must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it.”

# Air Force changes, removes info given to officer promotion boards

By Tech. Sgt. David Jablonski  
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Air Force officials are making changes to what information will be kept in selection briefs for officers facing promotion boards this year.

Starting with active-duty promotion boards through the rank of colonel in 2005, all self-initiated academic education information, including bachelor's degrees, will be removed from the officer selection brief, officer pre-selection brief and duty qualification history brief for line officers and the judge advocate general corps.

Academic education information for chaplains and health-profession officers will remain in applicable promotion documents.

The Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve will implement the same procedures beginning with boards convening after Jan. 1, 2006.

Additionally, in a change that ap-

plies to all officers regardless of promotion category, a deployment history block displaying the last six deployments in excess of 45 days since Sept. 11, 2001, will replace the overseas duty history block.

The assignment history section will still reflect overseas duty and information on officers sent to Air Force-sponsored developmental education. Training reports from these assignments will remain filed in the officer selection record.

"We are an expeditionary Air Force and capturing deployment history is more relevant than a listing of overseas assignments," said Lt. Gen. Roger A. Brady, deputy chief of staff for personnel. "Currently, deployment history is not readily captured on promotion documents. By highlighting this information to board members, they will not need to hunt through (officer promotion reports) or decorations to find it, he said.

The changes only affect promotion

documents. Academic education will remain on other developmental team documents, such as assignment reports. Air Force policy prohibits senior raters from using these documents when preparing promotion recommendation forms.

"By changing the culture from one of 'forced' education for promotion to personal development, the officer and the Air Force will reap greater benefits," General Brady said.

"As force development continues to evolve, we will incorporate additional initiatives to ensure every officer receives the education and training that best suits that person and Air Force needs.

"The Air Force wants its officers to focus on job performance — people will be sent to obtain advanced degrees when they are required to do the job. This should relieve the pressure officers feel to obtain advanced degrees solely for the purpose of promotion," General Brady said.

CFC, from page 1

so next year we're going to break the record one more time."

Mr. Wolfowitz said the record shows the DOD community is generous and committed to helping others.

"Wherever you look, whether it's wearing the uniform or as civilian, you'll find people with a strong sense of community, a strong sense of service, people who will pitch in to provide help when it's needed," he said.

Such was the case after the recent tsunami disaster.

Mr. Wolfowitz said the CFC deadline was extended two weeks to allow employees to contribute to the tsunami relief-efforts.

"I want to thank all of you in this campaign for making that part of our special effort," he said.

Although the generosity is "clearly reflected in this record-breaking fund-raising effort," Mr. Wolfowitz said the numbers alone do not tell the story.

"It's not just the numbers — those figures are impressive enough — but the spirit behind some of the gifts is as amazing," he said.

Mr. Wolfowitz said one anonymous employee gave a single gift of more than \$250,000, but he said that every donation reflects the DOD community's generosity.

"Whatever the amount, you can be certain that every gift was given with a generous heart," he said.

A breakdown of the donations shows all 23 components of the DOD effort exceeded their goals, and, for the first time, each military service raised more than \$2 million. The Department of the Navy and U.S. Marine Corps raised \$3.7 million; the Army \$3.3 million and the Air Force \$2.1 million.

The Defense Intelligence Agency became the first nonservice component to raise more than \$1 million.

The average contribution this year was \$296, with some 50,000 donors contributing.

Laughlin exceeded its goal by more than 60 percent Oct. 30.

The 6-week campaign's goal which started here Sept. 13, was \$55,009. Laughlin members contributed more than \$90,000 by the campaign's end.

## Job shadow...

Itzel Valdez (center), a Del Rio Freshman School ninth grader, makes a first-hand weather observation Wednesday on Laughlin's flight line along with Staff Sgt. Kathleen Williams (left) and Senior Airman Joshua Gregory, 47th Operations Support Squadron weather forecasters. Valdez joined 14 other local students for Ground Hog Job Shadow Day at Laughlin. They spent time one-on-one with mentors doing jobs in the career fields they had an interest in. The program aims to motivate students and help them set goals for their future.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill

Officials  
launch ‘Healthy  
Choices for  
Life’ program

By Gerry J. Gilmore  
*American Forces  
Press Service*

WASHINGTON — De-  
fense Department officials are  
launching a new preventive  
health-care program called  
“Healthy Choices for Life,”  
the department’s senior medi-  
cal adviser said here Jan. 26.  
The purpose of the  
Tricare-managed program is  
“to put information in the  
hands of individual  
servicemembers and family  
members so that they can  
change their behavior,” said  
Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr.,  
the assistant secretary of  
defense for health affairs.

The program will focus on  
persuading people to quit  
smoking, moderate drinking  
habits, exercise and lose  
weight, he said.

Adopting more moderate  
health habits enables people  
“to avoid bad health outcomes  
and bad health problems” like  
lung cancer, emphysema, liver  
and brain damage, diabetes,  
heart attacks and strokes,  
Dr. Winkenwerder said.

He said about \$13 million  
has been budgeted to fund pi-  
lot programs over the next few  
years. Some features of the  
pilot projects under consider-  
ation include toll-free smok-  
ing and drinking cessation  
phone lines and dedicated  
Web sites touting healthier  
lifestyles, he said.

Dr. Winkenwerder said  
the program is envisioned as  
a DOD-wide and -managed  
endeavor rather than separate  
programs run by each armed  
service.

For more information  
about the program, visit  
[www.tricare.osd.mil/  
healthychoices/](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/healthychoices/).

4X10 Armed Forces

3X10 ABC  
RUG

Chapel  
information



Catholic

Monday - Friday	1 Mass, 12:05 p.m.
Saturday	1 Mass, 5 p.m., Reconciliation, 4:15 p.m. or by appointment
Sunday	1 Mass, 9:30 a.m., Religious Education, 11 a.m.
Thursday	1 Choir: 6 p.m., Rite of Christian Initiation, 7:30 p.m.

Protestant

Wednesday	1 Choir, 7 p.m.; Protestant Women of the Chapel Ladies’ Bible Study, 9 a.m.
Sunday	1 General worship, 11 a.m., Contemporary worship, 9 a.m. in the base theater

Chaplain Staff

Wing chaplain:	Chap. (Lt. Col.) Joseph Lim, Roman Catholic
Senior Protestant:	Chap. (Capt.) Terri Gast, Presbyterian Church, USA
Protestant:	Chap. (Capt.) Alex Jack, Independent Christian Church
Protestant:	Chap. (Capt.) Kenneth Fisher, Evangelical Church Alliance

For more information on other denominations, chapel events or services, call 298-5111. For information on special events, see the Community Calendar on page 16.

Air Force News  
ONLINE

Access current news and information at  
United States Air Force Online News,  
the official newspaper  
of the United States Air Force  
With a simple mouse click go to  
[www.af.mil/news](http://www.af.mil/news)

DoD renews focus to reduce accidents by half

By Gerry Gilmore  
American Forces  
Press Service

The Defense Department wants servicemembers and civilians to concentrate on safety whether they're on or off duty, DoD's top personnel official said Jan. 24.

Each year scores of sailors, soldiers, Marines, Airmen and Coast Guard members, as well as DoD civilians, are killed or injured by preventable accidents, David S.C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, told attendees here at the annual Tricare conference .

For example, "we lose several hundred military persons a year in motor vehicle accidents," Chu pointed out, noting, "that tragic record continues" during military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

DoD has been evaluating its safety policies and pro-

grams as part of its transformation efforts, Chu noted. In a May 2003 memorandum Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld stated that top organizations like DoD "do not tolerate preventable accidents."

The secretary directed Chu to lead the effort to reduce the number of mishaps and accident rates within DoD by 50 percent over the next two years.

"These goals are achievable, and will directly increase our operational readiness," Rumsfeld said in the memo, adding, "We owe no less to the men and women who defend our nation."

Meeting the secretary's short-term safety goal requires "real process change" across the department, Chu pointed out. To facilitate that change, the Defense Safety Oversight Council was established, he noted, comprised of the

undersecretaries of defense, the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the undersecretaries of the military departments.

That group meets every other month, Chu observed, to provide guidance "and to monitor the accident-reduction efforts the department is undertaking."

DoD's long-term safety goal, Chu explained, "is zero preventable mishaps." The council's existence, he noted, demonstrates DoD's senior leadership "is involved in pursuing this goal."

Also, Chu said, a series of task forces have been set up to address safety concerns in military aviation, training, deployment operations, installation/industrial operations, privately operated motor vehicle safety, and workmen's compensation.

Chu said another task force examines acquisition/technology safety issues, while yet another looks at establishing a DoD-wide safety monitoring system. A general officer or a Senior Executive

Service civilian heads each task force, he noted, which all utilize input from safety experts from across DoD and private industry.

The acquisition/technology task force, Chu explained, studies lessons learned to improve safety standards for present and future military systems. For example, he said, the task force examined the issue of missing or outdated safety features on tactical military vehicles.

As a result, he pointed out, the Army is now retrofitting its heavy-truck fleet – including trucks used in combat theaters — with quick-release, multi-point seat belts and anti-lock brakes.

"Vehicle crashes are the largest accidental killer of U.S. military personnel," Chu asserted, noting that in Iraq Humvees and tactical cargo trucks "comprise the largest segment of accidental vehicle deaths." Department safety experts believe that ensuring seat belt usage by servicemembers, controlling speed, and managing driver

fatigue "can reduce these accidents," he said.

And the leading noncombat-associated killer of service members, Chu said, is privately operated vehicle accidents – including motorcycles.

"We need to know where, when and why an injury occurs," he explained, noting it's important to know not only the types of servicemember injuries, "but also the causes."

"Important progress" has been made on the safety front, Chu maintained, but he noted, "We've got a long way to go to meet the secretary's goals."

USAFA cadet collapses, dies after fitness test

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — An Air Force Academy cadet died here Monday after collapsing following a physical-fitness test.

Edward Schmetz, 18, of Chatham, New Jersey, was taken to the academy hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Officials are investigating the cause of the cadet's death.

Memorial services are being planned, but dates and times have not been finalized.

2X5 Military Media

2X2 The Veranda

2X2 Amistad Taxes

1X2 Animal Houise

# Votes prove stronger than bullets in Iraqi elections

By Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Service

“Iraqis have proved today that the strength of their votes are more powerful than the strength or the effects of bullets or terrorism,” said interim Iraqi Vice President Ibrahim Jafari Jan. 30. Jafari, speaking through a translator, spoke to a press conference after casting his vote in the elections for an Iraqi National Assembly. Government officials said that while there were incidents of violence in the country, Iraqi security forces were able to handle them. Officials said the voter turnout was strong and grew stronger as the day progressed. The Iraqis showed their determination in the face of terrorism. In

Baghdad, a suicide bomber launched an attack near the al Iskand Children’s Hospital, and succeeded only in killing himself, officials said. Local Iraqis on their way to vote spit on the body. A snapshot of voting around the country showed a strong showing in the northeast and south. In the Ninewa province, there were no major incidents and Iraqis lined up to vote. What seemed to occur was that members of a family would go out to check the polling place. When there were no incidents, then the rest of the voters in the family would come out, officials said. In primarily Sunni areas, the voting was consistent. There were lines forming in Baqubah, Suleymaniyah,

Mosul and even Fallujah. In Baghdad, some Iraqis walked 20 kilometers to vote, and insurgents fired across the Tigris River to try an intimidate voters, but were themselves attacked by Iraqis who refused to be intimidated, officials said. There was violence, officials said, but it was isolated. There were other instances of suicide bombings and one vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated. Insurgents fired some mortars in Baghdad and other areas. Western reporters said that by 1:30 p.m., there were 13 deaths nationwide tied to the elections. Mandia Hussein, a member of the Independent Election Commission of Iraq, congratulated the Iraqi people as they went to the polling centers. “This

is a momentous phase the Iraqi people are going through,” Hussein said through a translator. “We are all united in our one aim to help our beloved country.” Government spokesman Tha’ir al-Naqeeb used an old voting ballot from Saddam Hussein’s regime as a vivid example of the type of change sweeping the country. The old slip had one box, with one party. Sunday’s voting slip gave Iraqis hundreds of choices. “Today is a great day for Iraq and Iraqis,” al-Naqeeb said. “Today we determine our future for ourselves for the first time. “Us Iraqis will be voting in our millions across Iraq,” he continued. “This is a great and a proud day for Iraqis.”

5X7 Armed Forces

3X11 Plaza Del  
Sol MAIL



Photo by Airman 1st Class Olufemi Owolabi

Try not to sneeze...

Capt. Jeff Taylor, 86th Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot receives a flu immunization from Staff Sgt. Valerie Elliot, 47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron during a FluMist immunization session at Anderson Hall Jan. 28. A flu immunization is mandatory for active-duty Air Force members. Another session is scheduled today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Classroom B of the Anderson Hall.

2X4  
Upstager

## Corrosion prevention: More than just a pretty paint job

T-1 color scheme goes gray, in line with AETC initiative

Story by Airman 1st Class  
Olufemi A. Owolabi  
Editor

As aircraft fly everyday in different weather conditions, they tend to corrode and lose their brilliance. But, there is a unit here which derives pleasure from taking corrosion-preventive measures using mixtures of paint.

The 47th Flying Training Wing Maintenance Directorate's painting facility, consisting of 13 highly-trained people, is dedicated to and responsible for this corrosion-prevention mission and at the same time keeping the airplanes good looking .

Recently Laughlin repainted two of its 51 T-1A Jayhawks from a white to a gray color scheme to make them uniform with most of Air Education and Training Command aircraft.

"The new color scheme is the same as the C-17's except the new one for the T-1 is a gloss, not a flat paint," said Tony Valero, 47th Maintenance Directorate Corrosion Control Branch supervisor. "The gloss gives the airplane the shine. It makes them look like they've been waxed; it's like glass."



**Victor Santos, an aircraft painter here, sands the wing tip of a T-38C before a paint touch-up practice Tuesday.**



*Photos by Airman 1st Class Olufemi Owolabi*

**(Left) Billy McDonald, painting facility work leader here, and (Right) Saul Munoz, painting journeyman, practice applying leading edge tape to a T-38C at the paint hangar Tuesday. The painting unit recently repainted two T-1s from a white to a gray color scheme.**

Britten Gambrel, 47th Flying Training Wing Maintenance Division chief, said the repainting process started here in January and will continue until all Laughlin's T-1s have been repainted.

"All our T-1 aircraft are required to be stripped, corrosion treated and repainted every eight years. As the T-1s are due for repainting, we are painting them with the gray paint," said Gambrel.

The repainting process of these aircraft is done here.

"When an aircraft is scheduled for painting... it gets completely washed in the wash rack before it comes to the regional painting facility here," said Mr. Valero.

Washing an aircraft before painting removes residual fuel, hydraulic oil, dirt and bugs to provide a cleaner aircraft surface for the painters.

Depending on the type of painting to be done on the airplane, the painters can either perform paint touch-up or an entire coat to the airplanes.

The painting process starts with taping off various parts of the airplane, like the wings, tail, wheels, antennas, windcreens and any electrical or hydraulic lines, said Mr. Valero.

The sanding portion comes right after the masking process. This consists of scuffing the aircraft from the nose to the rear and to the top of the vertical stabilizer.

"Once we finish sanding, the plane is looked over for cracks, leaks and other discrepancies that will need to be repaired by other maintenance technicians," Mr. Valero said.

After repairing any defects, the airplane is washed again before applying a protective treatment, Mr. Valero added.

"If we don't strip and inspect for corrosion, the aircraft could be damaged beyond our repair capabilities," he said.

"This is a new treatment that is more environmentally safe and it protects the metals, thereby, increasing

their life span, he said.

In June AETC's studies and analysis squadron researched whether gray paint used on the aircraft would pose any operational concerns.

The squadron conducted a three-month evaluation and research and learned that the gloss gray color scheme presented no operational risks or problems.

In fact, the research showed that the gray color scheme would improve safety by making the aircraft more visible in flight to other aircraft on a clear day.

Application of the primer, first and second coats of the paint, completes the painting process, after which it is left for at least eight hours to cure. "It took us up to five days to complete those two we recently painted," Mr. Valero said.

Mr. Gambrel said repainting the T-1s is the base's responsibility and costs approximately \$7,000 per aircraft.

"Keeping our aircraft safe and good looking is what we do," Mr. Gambrel said.

# World War II navigator repatriated after 63 years

Story and photos  
by Capt. Paula Kurtz  
Public Affairs

Within days of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, James W. Carver dropped out of school at then Texas A & I University in Kingsville to join the Army Air Corps in defense of his nation.

Saturday, members of the 85th Flying Training Squadron provided a memorial flyover in the T-6A Texan II as more than 100 family members, friends, veterans, servicemembers, Border Patrol agents, and Air Force Jr. ROTC cadets braved the cold, wet, overcast day to lay 1st Lt. James W. Carver to rest in his hometown of Eagle Pass, Texas.

"It's just a miracle to have him come home after all this time," said Kay Cunningham, Lieutenant Carver's niece. "I was only 3 months old when he went missing, and yet it's always, always been in my heart that there's somebody not there. He was gone, but he was never returned to us."

Lieutenant Carver's B-17 Flying Fortress disappeared on Nov. 1, 1942 during a night bombing raid of Japanese targets near Faisi Island, Solomon Islands. Lieutenant Carver was navigator of the aircraft, which was last seen by friendly forces as it



**Memorabilia honoring the life of 1st Lt. James W. Carver sits on display at his funeral service Saturday in Eagle Pass, Texas.**

was being tracked by enemy searchlights over Tonolei Harbor and taking heavy anti-aircraft fire.

In 1998, a villager living in a remote area of Papua New Guinea found the wreckage of a World War II aircraft and presented artifacts from the craft to a team investigating a crash site on another part of the island. Soon after, the Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii was notified.

"We assumed the plane had gone into the ocean," Mrs. Cunningham said. "All of the families (of the other crewmembers) did. We never

expected that anything would be found."

In May 2001, Mrs. Cunningham was surprised to receive a call from the Army's genealogy research division asking her to donate some DNA. Although skeptical, Mrs. Cunningham agreed.

The following day, another phone call from Army Mortuary Affairs revealed that her uncle's dog tags had been found at the crash site in Papua New Guinea, and the DNA would be used to identify remains that had already been collected.

"I started sobbing and crying and she (the mortuary affairs representative) asked if I was okay," Mrs. Cunningham recounted. "I told her, you can't imagine the joy! We never expected anything. It's a miracle to my family."

Following a short gathering at

the funeral home Saturday, Lieutenant Carver's remains were transported to Maverick County Cemetery in Eagle Pass for interment. A 13-member Army honor guard detail from Fort Sam Houston, led by Sergeant First Class Eddie Campos, provided honors, to include pall bearers, flag folding, and a seven-member firing team that rendered a 21-gun salute.

Lieutenant Carver graduated from Navigation Class 42-8 at Mather Field, Calif. on June 30, 1942, and was assigned to the 19th Bomber Group, 30th Bomber Squadron at the time of his death. He was promoted to the rank of 1st Lieutenant while missing in action.



**Personal artifacts recovered from the wreckage of the ill fated B-17 were presented to Lieutenant Carver's family Saturday prior to the funeral service. Included were his dogtags and an engraved cigarette lighter.**



**Army Sergeant First Class Eddie Campos, Fort Sam Houston Honor Guard, presents the U.S. flag to Mr. Clouis Hansen, 95, Lt. Carver's brother-in-law. Mr. Hansen drove Lt. Carver to Kelly Field for basic training in January 1942 and was the last family member to see him alive.**



**Members of the Fort Sam Houston Honor Guard place the folded U.S. flag atop the casket of 1st Lt. James W. Carver as local veterans pay respect with a salute**

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**The Air Force rewards good ideas with money. Check out the IDEA Program data system at <https://ideas.randolph.af.mil> or call Tech. Sgt. Thomas Mayo at 298-4355.**

1X3

4X10.5 Lacks

Officials reschedule  
OTS selection boards

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE — Because of fiscal 2005 Air Force force-shaping efforts, the nonrated (both non-technical and technical) portions of the March 28 and May 10 Officer Training School selection boards will now meet in August, Air Force Recruiting Service officials announced Jan. 27.

The rated panels for these boards will convene as scheduled, AFRS officials said.

For more information concerning OTS and the application process, active-duty Airmen can contact their local education office; civilians can contact the nearest Air Force recruiter.

(Courtesy Air Education and Training Command News Service)

The *XLer*

Jennifer Johnson  
Education specialist



Photo by Airman 1st Class Olufemi Owolabi

**Hometown:** Katy, Texas  
**Family:** Husband, John, Rifle, a yellow lab, and Honey, a black pub.  
**Time at Laughlin:** Two years, 1 month  
**Time in civil service:** Two years  
**Greatest accomplishment:** Working on two masters' degrees and working full time.  
**Hobbies:** Reading, shopping, dining out and traveling  
**Bad habit:** Eating junk food and over eating  
**Favorite movies:** "Tommy Boy," "Kill Bill vol. 1," and "Bridget Jones Diary"  
**If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why?** My mom... Because we always have the best conversation.

2X7 Roberts Jewelers

Rapid Tax

Teets to build on core competencies

by Tech. Sgt. David Jablonski  
*Air Force Print News*

Peter B. Teets will focus on core competencies to take the Air Force through a transitional period that includes the fiscal 2006 budget process and the quadrennial defense review. Mr. Teets has served as undersecretary of the Air Force since 2001 and became the acting secretary of the Air Force following the retirement of Dr. James G. Roche. Mr. Teets also serves as the Department of Defense executive agent for space and as the director of the National Reconnaissance Office.

“I intend to maintain the current priorities and continue to build on the Air Force’s core competencies,” Mr. Teets said. “The Air Force is a wonderful institution because of its people. We need to continue developing them in the same way we have in the last several years.”

One recent example he cited is the space cadre formed under the national security space program. That program integrated professional-development

opportunities and rotational assignments for space professionals, similar to the way aviators are trained and mentored. “We want to build core competencies that consist of developing Airmen, transitioning technology to warfighting and integrating operations,” Mr. Teets said.

Although he said core competencies would serve the Air Force well into the future, the service’s leaders need to seek the resources necessary to recapitalize assets when discussing next year’s budget.

“The 2006 budget will go to Congress, and I will certainly testify and provide rationale for why the president’s budget is a good budget, and to seek help from Congress to provide the resources we need to accomplish our mission,” Mr. Teets said.

The budget discussion comes at the same time the Air Force begins to meet the challenges of the quadrennial defense review.

“It’ll take a year to perform, but the QDR terms of reference are coming together right now, and this will



Courtesy photo

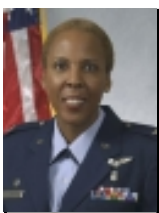
**Peter B. Teets became the acting secretary of the Air Force following Dr. James G. Roche’s retirement Jan. 20**

shape our Air Force for a good number of years to come,” Mr. Teets said. “It’s vitally important that we get this QDR right.”

But the most challenging task Mr. Teets said he faces is one of image.

“Over the past several months, we have faced some challenges in the press,” he said, about issues relating to the acquisition process and unpro-

fessional behavior of a small number of Airmen. “I would simply reiterate that one of the most important and best things about our Air Force is that we honor our core values — integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do. To that end, I would urge all of us to rededicate ourselves to those core values and live our lives according to them.”



What's up Doc?

By Col. Laura Torres-Reyes  
47th Medical Group commander

**Question:** I had an appointment in the clinic for my annual female exam, but when I showed up for my appointment with my daughter, they said I would have to re-schedule because I couldn't properly supervise her during the exam. Is there a clinic policy on this? Why wasn't I told before?

**Answer:** I apologize for the inconvenience you experienced in having to re-schedule your appointment. Yes, the clinic has a written policy on the subject, and thanks to your feedback, our staff will now make every effort to ensure our patients are aware of it.

The policy is very important to prevent accidental injury to children brought to the clinic and ensures all of our patients and staff have a safe environment for care.

The policy requires that parents maintain responsible supervision of their children at all times.

If an adult has an appointment with a provider, it is very important not to have children in the room during the examination.

The treatment rooms are very small and have many items that are hazardous to children if strict supervision isn't maintained. It is especially important not to have a child with you if you are having a procedure that prohibits you from directly supervising your child.

Pelvic exams and minor surgical procedures are common examples. We request that you arrange to leave children at home or with a friend under proper supervision.

If the appointment is for your child, you should not bring any addi-

tional children with you unless you have someone with you who can directly supervise them while you and your child are in the treatment room with the provider. Thank you so much for your understanding and compliance.

Your cooperation is critical in helping us provide a safe environment for all of our patients and staff.

Lastly, our Medical Group Patient Advocate is Lieutenant Matt Wolthoff. Please request to speak to him, or contact him directly if you would like to make an appointment to discuss your issue in person. He can be reached at 298-6368.

Thanks for your question! You may contact Colonel Torres-Reyes at [laura.torresreyes@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:laura.torresreyes@laughlin.af.mil) if you have a 'What's Up Doc' question.

Also, the Primary Care Manager on-call can be reached by paging 298-5444 ext. 3718.



Cadets to sing at Super Bowl XXXIX

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Air Force Academy cadets will join fellow service academy cadets to sing the national anthem to kick off Super Bowl XXXIX.

The 25-voice Cadet Chorale will join with cadets from the U.S. Naval Academy Glee Club, West Point Choir and U.S. Coast Guard Academy Choir to perform in Jacksonville, Fla., on Sunday.

This joint choir will perform in tribute to World War II veterans, who will be honored at this event. Veterans from various units and organizations, including the Tuskegee Airmen, will be present.

This is the first time in 30 years that all four service academies will be singing together. The last time was in 1973 for President Nixon's inauguration.

The last time the Cadet Chorale sang at a Super Bowl was in 1972.

(Courtesy Air Force Print News)



Photo by Airman 1st Class Kiley Olds

Are you tough enough...?

World Wrestling Entertainment professional wrestler Victoria signs the back of Airman 1st Class Fred Stewart's shirt. Airman Stewart was one of several Dyess Airmen who recently returned from a deployment and selected to meet with the wrestlers in Abilene, Texas Jan. 21.

Sports writers needed

If you are interested in writing sport stories for the base paper, contact the public affairs office at 298-5988.

Intramural Basketball Standings

Team Name	Win	Loss
CES	7	1
CCS	5	3
MDG	0	9
MSS	4	6
SFS	2	7
84th/85th	2	6
86th	8	0
87th	3	6
LCSAM	9	1

XL Fitness Center hours

298-5251



Monday - Thursday:  
5 a.m. to 11 p.m.  
Friday:  
5 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Saturday and Sunday:  
7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Commissary hours

The commissary is open:	
<b>Tuesdays</b>	<b>Friday</b>
10 a.m. to 8 p.m.	8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
<b>Wednesdays</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
8 a.m. to 6 p.m.	9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
<b>Thursdays</b>	<b>Sundays</b>
8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
<b>Mondays</b>	
Closed	